

Hon. Geo. W. Julian.



Centerville, Ind.,
Nov. 27, 1863.

Dear Sir:-

149

I have received your letter inviting me to attend your Commemorative Meeting in Philadelphia, on the 3^d and 4th of December next and am sincerely sorry that my engagements will not allow me the pleasure of mingling with you on so interesting an occasion. I have scarcely time even for the brief word of cheer which my heart tells me I ought to send you.

Less years ago, in a letter then written to your second Decade Meeting, I expressed the opinion that "the Providence of God, availing itself of the blindness and wickedness of men", was "hostening on a great crisis in the history of our country", and that the Anti-Slavery cause was "passing through a transition period, from a public and cen-



Handwritten text in Urdu script, consisting of approximately five lines. The ink is dark and the handwriting is cursive. The text is located in the upper left portion of the page.

Handwritten text in Urdu script, continuing from the previous page. It consists of a vertical column of text on the right edge of the page, with some characters visible on the adjacent page.

popular, to a powerful and dominant
movement, among the great forces that are
shaking the world! Time has proved
that I was right. When the Slave power
abandoned its warfare against Freedom
through its ordinary weapons and its
recognized political machinery, and
made an infernal leap at the na-
tion's throat, it did more for our coun-
try than the wisdom of our statesmanship,
the power of our philanthropy, or the virtue
of the people could have accomplished for fu-
erations to come. The Republic is today re-
ceiving the commission of its sins through the
baptism of fire and blood which it has
been compelled to accept. Without the
mighty help of this rebellion, the Slave In-
terest, enthroned in Congress and on the Su-
preme Bench, and holding in check the Ex-
ecutive, would now have held com-
plete mastery over these states. But for
this revolt, drawing with it the rebel
power from Congress, the Pacific
Railroad Bill could not have been

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enacted; Polygamy in Utah could
not have been abolished; the Home-
stead Bill would have failed; Slavery
in the District of Columbia would
have continued; the intentions of the United
States, as to which congressional intermen-
tion had been abandoned, would have
been handed over to the tender mercies of
"popular sovereignty," as interpreted
by a slave-binding Supreme Court;
the fugitive slave act would have
continued in full force; the late action
of Congress and the Executive giving free
dom to three and a half millions of
slaves, ~~would have been impossible;~~
~~and the policy~~ and allowing the negro
to fight for his freedom and his coun-
try and thus make sure his enfranchi-
ment, would have been impossible; and
in order to placate the rebel power and live
with our "Southern brethren" in peace, an
amendment to the Constitution would have
been carried, tying up the hands of the
people forever, against the right to abolish

slowly in the states of the South. ⁴ Before
~~the breaking out of this war~~ Without
the saving grace of this civil war
I greatly fear our Union would
have become a confederacy of con-
sueis, devouring humanity, defying
God, exalting the devil, and glad-
dening the heart of every absolutist
throughout the earth. Shall we not
return thanks?

And the blessed work upon which
the Government and people have en-
tered since the beginning of the rebellion
and by its help, cannot stop here. That
the action of Congress and the Executive
already used to will be made more
and effective by a law of Congress
totally abolishing slavery, is now far
more probable than were the facts of to-
day two years ago. This rebellion born
of slavery, will not be crushed without
crushing freedom ~~its~~ cause. The rebel
states, in some form, will be placed
under the pupilage of Congress, till they

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shall be qualified⁵ for recognition as free
states. Not only will slavery be utterly
destroyed, but adequate measures
will be taken to prohibit it hereafter
and prevent in all the states of the Union.
This will be done, either by an
amendment of the Constitution, or by a
just interpretation of its clauses man-
dating republican governments
to the states, and providing that no
man shall be deprived of life, liberty,
or property, without due process of
law.

Such are some of the compensations
of this war, which we are to set down
in the credit column of our account
current with the rebels. Their madness,
has been our salvation - a "fate upon
hellish providence" in saving our
land from destruction. Their unmatch-
ed conspiracy against civilization
and the rights of man, so heinous
in its diabolism, so sublimely infer-
nal in all its phases, has not even com-

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renaming and demigods to thinking, and
round up consciences long since regarded
as dead and buried. Slavery, painting
its own character in the flames of civil
war and national blunder, has com-
pelled every man to become an abolition-
ist who is not a traitor. ^{Wide} Treason
and slavery are fitly joined in and-
lock, ~~while~~ loyalty and abolitionism
are convertible terms. Ideas and
words are being revolutionized, as well
as political balances. In the re-
-clation of American politics, after
the coronation of liberty in our land
"abolition" and "^{chosen and precise words,} radical" will be
"sweeter than honey on the lips of men";
whilst "compromise" and "conserva-
tive" will be consigned to the limbo
^{whatever} of ~~all that~~ rovers of cowardice,
slavery, and treason. Men also will
change places. Decency and manhood
will be current coin in the commerce
of public life. The defenders of slavery
and its apologists will gravitate to their

[illegible]

two leech, whilst conspicuous rebel sympathies
will be scourged from the land, or creep to their
political graves. Nor will history fail to
insure with pre-eminent and signal honors
the abolitionists of the United States, whose courage,
courage, and faith, bidding defiance to pro-
scription, persecution, and death, have kept
alive among the people that spirit of liberty
without which the slave power would
have ^{mounted} ~~mounted~~ to absolute ^{dominion} ~~supremacy~~ over
the Republic. of 6

Wishing your meeting great success
and usefulness I am

Very truly yours
Geo. W. Julian

Wm Lloyd Garrison,
President

Charles L. Burleigh,
Nedell Phillips,

195, A.1.2.32 p. 84

Hom. Soc. W.